

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: GOE DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT MET WITH SEVERAL TOP POLITICAL LEADERS ON THE EVENING OF FEB 3 TO DISCUSS THE SHAPE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. THIS IS ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF THE GOE'S FULFILLMENT OF ITS PLEDGE TO CONDUCT DIALOGUE WITH ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY AND PERMIT PARTICIPATION IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECUADOREAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THE JANUARY 29 STATEMENT BBY MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT COL. RICHELIEU LEVOYER, THAT THE GOE WAS DISPOSED TO CONDUCT A DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE SHAPE OF THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME, EMBASSY SOURCES AND NEWSPAPERS REPORTED FEB 4 THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT MET WITH SEVERSL TOP POLITICAL LEADERS THE EVENING OF FEB 3.

3. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES, THE FEB 4 EL COMERCIO REPORTS THAT THOSE POLITICIANS IN ATTENDANCE WERE: RODRIGO SUAREZ MORALES, CONSERVATIVE; PEDRO JOSE ARTETA, LIBERAL; GUILLERMO CABRERA, SOCIALIST; DARIOO MACHUCA, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONALIST COALITION; PABLO DAVALOS, SOCIAL CHRISTIAN; AND POSSIBLY A REPRESENTATIVE OF

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THE CARLOS AROSEMENA ORGANIZATION.

4. MORNING NEWSPAPERS FEB 5 PRINTED FAVORABLE COMMENTS BY SEVERAL POLITICIANS ATTENDING THE MEETING AS "PATRIOTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE" AND SAID THAT THE GOE HAD INVITED THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. ARTETA SAID, IN PART, "IT IS A NOTABLE DECISION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS JUNCTURE TO MAKE STRUCTURAL REFORMS AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES THAT THE PEOPLE REQUIRE, CAPABLE OF OFFERING, A SOLUTION THAT SUITS THE NATIONAL INTERESTS, ABOVE ALL TO BRING TO THE COUNTRY A NEW, PROGRESSIVE, AND DURABLE DEMOCRACY." THE LIBERAL LEADER PLEDGED TO COOPERATE IN THIS PROCESS.

5. SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PABLO DAVALOS WAS ALSO PLEASED WITH THE MEETING AND COMMENTED THAT THE GOE, IN GOOD FAITH, INTENDS TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

6. NOTABLE AMONG THOSE POLITICAL PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONVERSATIONS OF FEB 3 WERE THE VELASQUISTAS AND THE CONCENTRATION OF POPULAR FORCES. NATIONAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE VELASQUISTASS PARTY, JULIO SORIANO CASANOVA, STATED THAT HIS PARTY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AS LONG AS THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE PARTY, ALFONSO ARTOYO ROBELLY, REMAINS IMPRISONED. THSF CONCENTRATION OF POPULAR FORCES IS THE PARTY OF ASSAD BUCARAM.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEETING, IT ILLUSTRATES AN EFFORT OF THE GOE TO COMMENCE DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES IN FULFILLMENT OF ITS PLEDGE THAT ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY WOULD BE PERMITTED PARTICIPATION IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECUADOREAN POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT IS ENVISIONED IN THE "INSTITUTIONALIZATION" PROCESS.
BREWSTER

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